Canada’s Dec 17 remarks on stakeholder modalities

- Chair, thank you for this opportunity to take the floor.
- Thank you for your hard work on developing this compromise proposal.
- Thank others for also engaging in trying to find a compromise.
- For Canada, transparency was one of the key points in the open letter from states and stakeholders that was sent to you last week.
- Transparency was a major issue in the modalities of the old.
- It resulted in the blanket veto of all 18 non-State organizations who were not ECOSOC accredited.
- Many of these NGOs and tech companies have important contributions to make on these issues.
- Yet, all were anonymously vetoed and no reason was given for their arbitrary exclusion from our discussions.
- We think we can and should do better this time.
- Your latest proposed modalities address the transparency and anonymity issues directly, by requiring a State who vetoes the participation of a non-ECOSOC accredited organization to at minimum identify itself.
• Then, on a voluntary basis, it may provide an explanation for its decision.

• This proposal is not perfect, because we fear that some States may still apply a blanket veto, as they did at the last OEWG.

• But, at this OEWG, we would at least know who they are. This would bring a minimum of transparency and accountability to the process.

• As one State said during the informals on Monday, they plan on using the veto judiciously.

• The transparency element in the latest modalities proposed by you yesterday, Chair, would allow us to try to hold States to that promise.

• So, while imperfect, the latest proposal is good enough. It is a bottom line for Canada, one that we do not think should be open to further negotiation.

• If we are to put these modalities in place for our next meeting, we need to give the secretariat enough time to deliver the process.

• We believe that the Chair’s proposed way forward is suitable, including the revised timeline for approval of the new modalities in January. Canada supports the UK and others in saying that this decision cannot be extended any further than the dates outlined by the Chair just now.
• Canada supports the Chair’s latest proposal. We encourage others to do so as well.